

Sermon Overview CEFC

March 12th, 2023

Title: God's Expectations for Life Change

Passage: Ephesians 4:17-32

Introduction

Question: When we **GIVE** our **LIVES** to **JESUS**, does Jesus **EXPECT** anything else to **CHANGE**?

Main Point: When we **GIVE** our **LIVES** to **JESUS**, He will **WORK** to **CHANGE** our lives.

Embracing God's Expectations for Life Change

Christ **SAVED** us from our **OLD** lives.

Principle: When we **PLACED** our faith in Jesus, we **TOOK OFF** our old way of life

Christ **GAVE** us **NEW** lives.

Principle: When we **PLACED** our faith in Jesus, we **PUT ON** a new way of life

Christ **EXPECTS** us to **EMBRACE LIFE CHANGE**

Principle: As we **LIVE BY FAITH** in Jesus, He wants us to **COOPERATE** with His **RENEWAL WORK** in our lives

CONCLUSION

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

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Main Point: When we give our lives to Jesus, He will work to change our lives.

- 1 The saying goes that the uniform makes the man. Do you think that is true? Why or why not?
- 2 How does a person come to belong to Christ? If someone asked you to explain it to them so that they could take steps to belong to Christ as well, what would you tell them? How can they take off their old clothes and put new ones on?
- 3 Why do you think we are sometimes tempted to go back to old habits Christ delivered us from? What is it about our old fallen life that we find so attractive?
- 4 Paul used some very intense words to describe our old lives: darkened in understanding, ignorance, separated from the Life of God, and hardness of heart. How would you explain these to an unsaved person who cannot see that they have it as bad as Paul says? How would you help them to perceive that they need a change of clothes?
- 5 Once we put on our new clothes (place our faith in Jesus), He wants to begin to renew us every day so that we become more and more like Him (our sanctification). He has created environments that if we show up in them faithfully, He will do the work of renewing us. Paul lists five in Ephesians 4. As a small group choose one of these and discuss how each of you might live it out this week trusting that if you show up Jesus will work.
- 6 Pastor Eric asked us to study Romans 12 during the week. This passage is a great summary of the Christian life. Look at Romans 12:1-2 (the command to be renewed) and Romans 12:9-21 (a fuller list of the renewal environments Jesus has given us). Talk about this passage as a group. What stands out to you as something God might be saying to you, your group, or even the church?